

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for fecal coliform bacteria in shellfish propagation waters located in Middlesex County, Virginia.

All impaired segments are located wholly within Middlesex County with the exception of the Piankatank River segments, these are in part located in Mathews County. These areas are described in the following publications:

- 1) Growing Area 27 as described in Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Numbers 90 and 202, Rappahannock River: Mud and Parrotts Creek, effective 27 April 1989 and 8 October 1996 respectively.
- 2) Growing Area 28 as described in Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Numbers 127 and 177, Rappahannock River: LaGrange and Robinson Creeks, effective 11 June 1996 and 28 May 1997 respectively.
- 3) Growing Area 29 as described in Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Number 42, Rappahannock River: Urbanna Creek, effective 17 September 1993.
- 4) Growing Area 30 as described in Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Numbers 51 and 179, Rappahannock River: Whiting and Meachin Creeks, effective 7 June 1994 and 9 December 1996 respectively.
- 5) Growing Area 34 as described in Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Numbers 126, 129 and 170, Piankatank River, Lower, Wilton, Healy and Cobbs Creeks, effective 2 March 1993, 3 March 1997, and 2 March 1993 respectively.

The affected water body segments are identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standard for fecal coliform bacteria in shellfish waters. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

The final public meeting on the development of the fecal coliform TMDL's will be held on February 17, 2005 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Cooks Corner Community Center, 2893 General Puller Highway, Saluda, Virginia. Directions can be obtained by calling Chris French at (804) 521-5124.

The public comment period will begin on February 17, 2005, and end on March 19, 2005. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Chester Bigelow and should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments. Requests should be sent to Chester Bigelow, Department of Environmental Quality, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23240, telephone (804) 698-4554, Fax (804) 698-4116, or e-mail ccbigeow@deq.virginia.gov.